



## **Arlington Tree Committee Minutes**

**Date:** Wednesday, October 11, 2023

**Time:** 7:30 PM – 9:00 PM

**Location:** Conducted via Zoom and in-person @Town Hall Annex 2nd floor Conference Room

In attendance: Mary Ellen Aronow, Eliza Burden, Keith Schnebly, Susan Stamps, Steve Moore; Tim Lecuivre (Tree Warden). Guests: Ash Abayamani, Roy Goldstein, Megan McLaughlin.

1. Review Agenda and Introduce Guests – Megan McLaughlin, Roy Goldstein and Ash Abayamani
2. Department of Public Works (DPW) Tree Division Update (Tim)
  - A. Tree Bylaw Activity (Includes all activity since August (September and October):
    - 39 Hopkins Rd. Complete teardown, Conservation Committee engagement due to proximity to Spy Pond. The owner is Chris Pennow No trees to be removed, but multiple trees will be protected in the setback.
    - 61 Aerial St. Derby Square is the landscape architect for project. No removals, planning to protect existing trees. Complete teardown/rebuild. Builder: Aram Nalbandyan.
    - 19 Moccasin Path. Complete teardown/rebuild. No trees on property, but public shade tree on Ridge Ave side. Tim will be ensuring this developer complies. Builder: Steve and Michelle Orfanos.
    - 285-289 Summer St. Alan Simao is builder. Barrett Tree East provided the tree plan. Double lot. Developing two lots side by side. 7 trees totaling 100dbh to be removed. They're also protecting trees. Submitted \$37K check already. Mostly Norway Maple, nothing particularly substantial.
    - 60 High Haith. Chris Nelson. Builder signed an affidavit that there are no qualifying trees on the lot and no public shade trees. May need to prune some MRP trees that overhang the building lot.
    - 5 Mystic Lake Drive. Bill Mahoney demolishing house and putting up a new house. Barrett Tree East did the plan. Back side of property owned by state (DCR land). One red maple on property that he's going to protect.
    - 230 Florence Ave. New developer, corner lot, not removing any trees. Barrett Tree East did tree plan. Protecting all the trees on the property. Complete demolish and rebuild.
    - 35 Kensington. Builder: John Carney. Marquis Tree service did tree plan. No qualifying trees to be removed. Public shade tree will be protected. One Norway maple came down but it was in the building envelope.
    - 14 Proprietors Way. Builders: Philip McLaughlin, Brian Mullan. No trees will be removed, all trees protected.

- B. Tree Hearings: 52 Huntington Road. 16 inch DBH norway maple. Homeowner wants to remove to make improvements. Scheduled for October 17. **Action Item: Mara will email objection to this tree removal.**
- C. Town Projects Involving Trees
- MWRA project on Pleasant St. should be finishing. Next project is on Summer St. May or may not impact trees.
  - Construction on Pleasant St and Wellington: Work but no tree protection. Tim will reach out to engineering to find out what's going on.
  - Mass Ave and Appleton St.: Proposal is to remove many shade trees, put in bicycle lane, move sidewalk, and replant.
- D. Fall Tree Planting. Bare root trees will be delivered at the end of month, 150 trees. In addition to street trees, Town will plant 10 trees in Mount Pleasant Cemetery and 8 trees in Old Burial Ground.
3. MBTA Communities: Proposal approved by ARB, going to Special Town Meeting. A few changes made; a 15-foot setback to allow for planting trees on private property. Tree Preservation Bylaw will apply to new developments. The law currently on the books (for rebuilds in commercial districts) requires a public street tree be planted every 25 feet. A Special Town Meeting article proposes this requirement for any future rebuild, commercial or private. Tim will be contacted for species/site.
4. Symmes Forest Conservation Management Plan: Arlington 360 has a forest around it, which falls under the jurisdiction of the Arlington Land Trust and ConComm. It's a former Norway Maple nursery. Arl 360 is responsible for management. Proposed plan is to phase in native trees and phase out invasive trees. There is a conservation plan that they are grappling with and figuring out options for Arlington 360's responsibilities. Stay tuned.
5. Publicity/Community Outreach -- Adopt-A-Tree -- Preparing for 2023 close-out. **Action Item: Steve will harvest email list** from this year's adopters so we can contact them early next year. Work with GIS specialist Susan Brunton to make sure the final notices go out in automated fashion. Eliza suggested the possibility of hosting a gathering for tree adopters as a thank you and to glean some feedback from them. What worked, what didn't, watering strategies. **Action item: Keith come up with ways to schedule and promote 'coffee with a Tree Committee member.'**
6. Town Day – reflections:
- Eliza: An AHS teacher inquired about how to plant trees at the 840 Mass. Ave. apartment building, where there are no trees along the street or on the front lawn. She will work w our AHS student liaison to advocate for tree planting. Can we plant street trees behind the sidewalk? **Action Item: Eliza will have student and faculty reach out to Tim, and Eliza will send Tim the address.**
  - Lycia, middle school student who came to Town Day to help promote the Adopt-a-Tree program, was very enthusiastic about their involvement.
  - MEA: fewer complaints this year, more interest in planting trees.
  - Steve: we talked a lot about Adopt-a-Tree program.
  - QR codes for various website access to programs/solutions was very effective.

7. Bylaw Plan: Here's what the ATC raised as initial scope for amendments to potentially be proposed for the 2024 Town Meeting:
- Include CRZ of street trees and neighbor's trees, as part of the tree plan (items #3 and #5 on circulated list), especially now that we have professionals doing the tree plan.
  - Expand protection to the entire lot, or make scope include all building permit types. Somerville did that 2 or 3 years ago, not even related to building permits. \*\*we would need more staff to support that\*\* (#6 on circulated list).
  - Adjust fee structure to put higher mitigation fees on the taking of larger trees -- in recognition of their greater value in pursuit of the Town goals of canopy preservation and climate change resilience.
  - Add current Select Board -approved policies to Bylaw, so people are universally informed of their content and requirements.

Meeting Adjourn: 9:12 PM

**Next Meeting: November 8, 2023**